# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1915.

#### For This, Much Thanks

R ICHMOND returns thanks to the Council Charter-Change Committee for that it has recommended legislation that will permit Richmond voters to decide on their own form of government. It is the greatest service the committee could have rendered the people. and merits gratitude. In fact, the committee is entitled to praise on more than one ac-Its plans for the inauguration of a wise budget system are helpful and constructive, and should be followed. That it has given form to the insistent popular demand for a real charter commission will remain. however, its principal claim to distinction.

Sir John, now Viscount French, late commander of the British forces in France and Belgium, is one of "the boys" who will get out of the trenches in time for Christmas at

#### An Ugly Turn

N ugly turn has been taken in the Virginia A Military Institute matter, if Paul Scott. the Washington and Lee student who first reported the case, has left college because he was advised "through fraternity channels" to leave Lexington.

Without considering the merits of the Sweet case, which we are confident will be fully investigated, it is apparent that some harm to young Scott was apprehended. That this possibility could have materialized is almost unthinkable. If he was in any sort of danger, it could have been only from the cadets. Virginia would be loath to believe that terrorism and the mob spirit could be carried so far by the cadets of an institution that glories in the memory of Stonewall Jackson and the New Market corps.

it is reported that Dr. Dernburg is in Victim on a secret political mission, which contemplates visits to Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Roumania. If he meets with the same measure of success that rewarded hir efforts in behalf of his imperial master in this country. Germany soon will be fighting

#### The New Mother Goose

the just children were warned against I overeating, the sin of playing hookey, the grave danger of going in deep water without knowing how Ace swim, the peril of climbing we have to warn children against new dangers. The old leisurely existence, imperiled only by drowning, limb-breaking and gluttony, has given place to our strenuous existence of the survival of the quickest to dodge.

Modern youth, intent on the joys of baseball, must ever keep an eye open for the predatory motorcycle, the omnivorous automobile and other devourers of the unwary. To meet the need, the Safety First Federation of America has published a Safety First Primer. Its admonitions are most timely, as the following, for example:

There is a boy in our town.
And he is very wise.
It aways store and listens
You show hath the even
It is anythered, there's
To get among the street,
Helt never get run over
Because he is discreet.

But probably the little boys will continue to run in front of motor cars, as formerly, with no other protection than that Providence which takes care of unwary children, overexhibitarated men and guardians of the Dove

Captain von Rintern is turned down by the German government as a "purchasing agent for private interests" who had "no instructions to violate the laws of the United States." A German official does not necessarily have to be instructed as to what he may do in this country in the interest of Germany. He goes to it naturally.

## Housecleaning of National Finances

THAT preparedness will be the policy of this government in the future there can be little doubt; that preparedness will increase the expenses of the government enormously there can be no doubt. For the year ending June 30, 1915, the total receipts were \$720,-397,782, and the total disbursements amounted to \$777.840,292 This shows a balance on the wrong side, which is not likely to be redressed by an increase of military expenditure by many millions of dollars. Only great financial skill has kept the government receipts nearly balancing expenses through the trying months of war and custom losses; the greatest genius cannot prevent a deficit in the future except by an increase of taxation.

This is true, if government expenses cannot he reduced. But why should our disbursements not be carefully examined in the search for leaks, for unnecessary spending? Among other things, such a search would discover, as everybody knows, an enormous waste in pensions. The war has been over amore than fifty years, and yet w- spend \$160. 900,000 a year in Civil War pensions. Such mince pie wagon.

extravagance was not dangerous formerly, when the money was not demanded for better uses. But now that money is badly needed for national defense, there seems little reason to pay pensions to other than old soldiers who actually need them.

We are glad to see that neither the war nor Congress has stood in the way of a discussion between the esteemed Providence. R. I., Journal and the Boston Transcript as to what constitutes the Boston bean. It is a disappointment, however, to learn that the Boston bean is not indigenous to the soil of Massachusetts, and that New England has to rely on the Pacific Slope for the nutritious vegetable. But it is explained by the Transcript that what makes the Boston bean is not where it is cultivated, but the cooking. and that the Boston method is what constitutes the bean which, next to the codfish, is the delicacy of the Pilgrim descendants.

#### Belt Line Crossing Report

THE TIMES-DISPATCH presents this morning the report of the distinguished engineer it employed to make an investigation of the problem presented by the Belt Line crossings of West End thoroughfares. It is a satisfaction to be able to assure the people of Richmond that there are few men in this country so well qualified as Mr. Wilgus to undertake such a task, and that his conclusions, backed by long years of experience in construction work of the first magnitude, are entitled to the respectful consideration of city authorities and the general public.

For months there had been a demand in many circles, usually informed and unselfish, for the employment of a real expert to investigate the West End crossings The Times-Dispatch, which joined in that demand, would have been gratified had the municipal government seen fit to accede to it. As there was no sign that the city meditated such employment and every evidence of an unfortunate and continuing difference between city and railroad, this newspaper undertook to supply the obvious need. The engagement of Mr. Wilgus was the result

He entered on the discharge of his duty with no preconceptions of any sort. He had received no justructions, save to consider the situation from the viewpoint of the people of Richmond and to recommend that solution of the problem, combining financial feasibility home. His retirement recalls some which with good engineering practice, which comthis country saw in our War Between the mended itself to his trained judgment. That he has done in the extended report printed to-day

> Mr. Wilgus presents conclusive reasons in opposition to the plan of the Belt Line Railroad, which involved extensive embankments and crossings over the streets. He argues. with the certainty of conviction, in favor of depressing the tracks and carrying the streets over them on handsome bridges. It should be a matter for local pride that his plan so nearly coincides with that conceived by E. T. D. Myers, and his report should serve to strengthen the apparent determination of the city and the railroad company to reach agreement on some modification of that method.

The Times-Dispatch has discharged in this matter an obligation it felt was due the community it seeks to serve. Its interest in a right solution of the difficulty was that merely of any other good citizen, but a newspaper with a correct understanding of its function is a quasi-public institution, owing duties to the public with which the ordinary citizen is not burdened. The Times-Dispatch believed that Richmond was entitled to the best advice obtainable, and, therefore, for Richmond's nefit, has obtained that advice.

Whatever steps hereafter may be taken will be aided and guided by the illumination large experience and distinguished and trees on fruit-steaking adventures. Nowadays richly rewarded abilities have thrown on the subject. The public, so aided, guided and fortified by expert and impartial testimony, will be enabled wisely to frame its own con-

> Roads that lead to Rome are in danger of being blocked by exiled Kings. Serbia's ruler negro is packing his baggage for the same city. It is in order to start a few Zepps for | is glan. the banks of the Tiber.

## Art and Commercialism

A GAIN art and commercialism are at daggers drawn, with the odds on art for once in a way. From the news columns, it appears that a corporation is charged by an artist with refusing to pay him the just proceeds of his art, as commercialized and marketed by the corporation. Wherefore his artistic soul is hurt and his potential bank account correspondingly injured.

When this particular artist was touched by the divine fire, his spirit sourced within him and song burst from his spark-touched heart. Under the inspiration of his muse, he penned the immortal words to "Row, Row, Row" and "You Made Me Love You, I Didn't Want to Do It." Then, being an artist and not a publisher, he and his brother-in-art, the man who floated the words on music likewise inspired, turned their joint product over to a merely commercial corporation.

Both these pagans sang themselves into immediate favor with the temperamental audiences of vaudeville houses and cabarets, and reaped as their reward large quantities of more or less tainted money. But, according to the artist who gave them life, his royalties have not mounted to the heights his soul reached when he created them and, in the words of the pleaders, therefore, he brings his suite.

It is art against commercialism, assuredly, and the only question to be considered is which is the real artist—the man who wrote the stuff or the corporation that succeeded in selling it?

The psychology department of a Wisconsin college discovers that nervous students are the smartest. Nerve is what tells, whether it is among students or panhandlers on the

Santa Claus will have to employ an extralot of vehicles to deliver the dividends of the steel industry this year.

## SEEN ON THE SIDE

Still Working.

There is no Arcady to-day. So all the modern thinkers say For science has destroyed it: There is no land of perfect joy, They say, man's appetite to cloy And none who has enjoyed it

But this just shows these thinkers wise Can't see what's set before their eyes In lovers' sweet confusion; If thinkers really looked they'd find The true Arcadian state of mind And that it's no delusion.

Yes. Arcady endures, my friends. And still its glowing rapture lends To loving youth and maiden: They dwell within its fabled dells, Where music sings and throbs and swells, With matchless beauty laden.

So come and dwell in Aready Heart of my heart, along with me; You'll ne'er have cause to rue it; We'll show the wise how love unfolds The rose of life-what joys it holds r'or those who can construe it

#### The Pessimist Says:

Some men are good and some are bad; some women are sweet and some are sour; but, speaking generally, individual humanity is like mass humanity—a sort of salad.

#### Bargain Days.

Gladys-Why are you such a violent suf-

Maudie-Because my brother told me that on the third Monday in every month our poll taxes would be marked down from \$1.53 to \$1.48.

For the man of business: 'Neither a borrower nor a lender be For loan oft loses both itself and friend. And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry."

For the reporter from the man interviewed: Report me and my cause aright."-Hamlet, v. 2

#### Wiser Than He Seemed.

"Miss Tartleigh told young Binks he was too unintelligent for her to think of marrying him, but he proved her estimate mistaken." "How? By making her change her mind?"

"Not at all. By making a successful dash for the tall timber before she had a chance to

#### Where Were the Prunes!

After having been held at Kirkwall more than wenty-four hours, Henry Ford's seagoing peace jitney was released by the British authorities greater. on Thursday and allowed to go on her way. It is stated in dispatches, however, that part her cargo was contraband, and that all of it, therefore, will be taken to a prize court. Yet the only article mentioned as forming part of arises the question-where were the prunes, in the cabins or in the hold?

Bruno's Weekly attributes the following limerick to President Wilson

As a beauty I am not a star: There are others more handsome by far; But my face, I don't mind it. For I am behind it ---The people in front get the jar

Grubbs-Is Miss Sweetthing going to hang up any mistletoe in her house this Christmas? Stubbs-I think not. According to my understanding, she regards a device of that sort as unsportsmanlike

The Season According to the Scriptures. "A gift is a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it."-Proverbs xvil, S.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive "-

## A Minute With the Cop.

"I saw Casey to-day, your friend, and he looked to me uncommonly down in the mouth.

What's the matter with him?" "Why, he went down to Newport News Satur- members, sent in last week, day night and stayed over Sunday, and when he came back he didn't meet anybody who knowed he'd been out of town. G'wan now, and mine your steps."

## Sknugs Says:

There is a heap of difference between being glad and being amused. You are glad when you hear of something that is going to benefit you, or when you have been flattered, or when somebody in your neighborhood whom you didn't like is going to move. You are amused when you see a little man hit a bully in the face; when you have seen a man run two blocks after a car and then back up on the sidewalk and watt for another, or when you see a man's hat blow off and watch another man run after it and pick is on the way, and the monarch of Monte- it up. Between the two, a man who is amused gets a lot more fun in life than the man who

## Tender-Hearted.

She was a fascinating miss, And he was a bashful man Who hadn't herve to ask a kigs-To steal one tacked a plan.

But she was grieved that he did grieve As only lovers can. And wo, his longing to relieve, Supplied both biss and plan

## Gossip From "Down Home"

North Carolina has 326 newspapers, with combined circulation of nearly 1,500,660. That accounts for the great progress of the Old

The Hickory Record says. "The public school teachers, it may be noted, are the people who are making the moonlight schools successful. ome of these days North Carolina will regard these servants more highly.

porkers in its region. It says "M. F. Tate, of Bridgewater, spent last Friday in Marion. Speaking of hig bogs, Mr. Tate says he killed two-year-old hog last week that weighed 126 pounds and a pix one year old that weighed

The statesville Landmark says. "The indy who ays claim to five acres on the top of Mt. Mitchell the second or third claimant of that mountain peak-and who is in actual and notorious possession thereof by camping on the same, is certainly in earnest. It is a trifle cool on 54t. Mitchell in midsummer, especially at night, and it must be a remigder of the Arctic regions at this season."

This rich one comes from the Reidsville fleview: "Wash Rowers, a one legged darky, was convicted some days ago in the Recorder's fourt for a misdemeanor and sentenced to work out his time on the county roads. While In the calaboose againing transportation to the contet oming he pulled off his cork leg and sent it home by a boy. This left Wash with put one leg to stand bu, and he intimated that he could not be expected to do much work on the After January 1, Colorado will be on the roads in this unbalanced condition. His Honor, Junge Humphreys, is coglisting the matter, and and Empire.

may decide to have Wash prosecuted for breaking jail, as a part of his anatomy did make its escape."

The Lenoir News is of the opinion that Caldwell County cows beat all other cows in the world. It says: "Caldwell County cows stand first with General Julian S. Carr. He stands back of this by putting his money in Caldwell cows for his blg Occoncechee tarm at Hillsboro. C. S. Brown, manager of this farm, was here last week and bought a carload of fine cows from Powell Brothers' big stock farm, about three miles from Lenoir."

The Kinston News tells the following: "A leaking bottle discovered to the police a trick blind tigers have resorted to to get liquor into the city when yesterday Officer Claude Sumrell saw the booze leaking from a case marked 'beer' in the express office. The officer bided his time until the consignee came for it and then followed him to the place of delivery, which proved to be the home of Sallie Williams, a negro woman, who lives on South McLewean Street. In it were forty-eight pints, and finding the case of liquor led to the discovery that five such cases were received at the local express office Saturday. Two were taken out of town and out of the county, it was said, but the others, three cases in all, or 144 pints, were captured by the police, and four persons were

## Chats With Virginia Editors

Chase City won out on its second snowstorm of the season. The Progress says: "The snow was welcomed for one reason, at least; for one good reason it was welcomed-it settled the dust.

"After the luck it has had with presidential nominations made in St. Louis, the Democrats must feel invincible next year," says the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. That is about the size

The letter "p" is having a run in the alphabet It is in preparedness, prosperity, peace, plenty and pork.—Times-Dispatch. Also in powder, punch, piffie, Petrograd, presents, Republican party and President .- Hallfax Gazette

The Harrisonburg News-Record says: "Seedless apples are the latest in California. But the Shenandoah Valley apple ought not to be compared with it. Like the traditional kid and the core, there 'ain't no seeds' left when the consumer gets through with it."

"The Congress of the United States," says the Newport News Press, "may be divided on the question of preparedness for war, but Southern Commercial Congress is a unit for preparedness for peace." That is the kind of preparedness to make the South greater and

"A reprehensible old bachelor friend tells us," says the Blackstone Courier, "that this advocacy of women doing the proposing is causing him much uneasiness, especially the early approach the cargo is a shipment of prunes. Whence of leap year, when they feel they have certain rights, anyway." If he is a Nottoway County old bachelor, he need not be uneasy.

> Referring to the announcement that English is to be more generally taught in the schools in Cuba, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot is unkind enough to say: "There are lots of localities in these United States, notably Houston and Charleston, in which it is not spoken except by visitors and strangers within their gates."

## The Voice of the People

At Anthuffrage Meeting.

At Antisuffrage Meeting.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—At a meeting of the officers and executive committee of the Virginia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage the following delegates were appointed from Richmond to be present at the national association, which met in Washington on December 13 and 14 at the Shoreham Hotel: Mrs. E. Randolph Williams, seeind vice-president; Miss Martha Maury Robinson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lewis Strauss, recording secretary; Mrs. R. E. Chelf and Miss Evelyn Gordon. Miss Molly Elliott Seawell, the novelist, a native of Virginia, joined the delegation, as did Miss C. Preston Davis, of the university, who has swelled the association's numbers by several hundred new and prominent

Richmond, Va., December 16, 1915.

## Queries and Answers

May a woman in Virginia secure a divorce from a husband who gets drunk occasionally though he does not mistreat her and provides for her some sort of way?

Bonfires. Please tell me whether there is an ordinance in Richmond against building bonfires in the streets and alleys, and, if so, to whom should violations be reported. SAFETY FIRST, There is, Report by phone to Police Headquarters, Madison 1839, or to nearest police

## Current Editorial Comment

Prohibition of prohibition pinching the Prohibition of prohibition pinehing the wrong foot. With water selling for \$1 a barcel, the "drys" are subjected to a painful prohibition of their own, a dose of their own, as well as the other fellows' medicine. Nobody ever dreamed that it would come to this. The world will watch results. It is unfortunate that peo-ple must drink something, though a little water will sometimes go a long way, even with a prohibitionist. Water at \$1 a barrel is the irony of nature. Only the very rich and selfindulgent John Wanamakers of the "dry" movecan afford to drink the beverage at the lilve price. The poor man cannot regplarly dissipate and wallow in it, but mus satisfy his craving with a thimbleful, although of a Saturday night there will likely be the occasional horrible example of the water drunkand blowing his whole week's wages at the proof. There is no extrement like the prohibitionist, but even the prohibitionist must pay penalty of his extremes. St. Louis Post-

There is more than the usual Berlin Peace
Propaganda
1s Dangerous
now only wishes to be let alone. If the war could end with every

thing remaining as it is, and national bound aries altered as armies have altered them, Ger

many would be the happiest nation on earth. It is true that "Germany would be only too happy if there were a substitute for physical force in settling disputes between nations," but that would not have made her happy eighteen months ugo. She rejected the Czar's gradual disarmament proposals. She rejected repeated overtures from England looking to a reduction upon naval expenditure. She relied wholly upon physical force, plus perfidy. Now that physical force has failed to settle a dispute between nations, a dispute which Germany deliberately worked up, she would be glad enough if some one could show her another way of attaining ends. She is not without hope that substitutes for force may be found in the united efforts of her own agents and weak-minded pacifists of neutral nations to bring about premature peace. From now to the end of t war we shall have from Berlin a peace propaganda hardly less dangerous than the spy propaganda that has radiated from the German capital for fifteen years past .- Toronto Mail

# Mother Goose to Date

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



-From Rochester Herald.

# LITTLE TALKS ON THRIFT

By S. W. STRAUS, President American Society for Thrift

This is the season of the year when the bitter truth often is impressed on us that the world has scan: respect for the penniless man. It cannot understand why if he has good health and the use of his faculties, he should be penniless. When a man who has worked continuously for a number of years loses his position for any reason, the first thought of those who know him is—"Well, he's been working steadily all this time, he must have quite a tidy sum saved up." Therefore his acquaintances do not take it kindly when he approaches them for help. They think—"He had as much channe to save as I did; why didn't he do it?" But the man who asked for help feels that he has not been treated right. He lays his treatment to the fact that he is "down and out."

Nothing is so calculated to make a

This is the season of the year when unusual call on a worker's earnings

and the next development is that he loses his self-respect.

Nothing is so calculated to make a man respect himself and to make the community in which he lives and works respect him, as his having a vate Joe" Fifer, as he was known certain sum of money back of him. It gives solidity to his business, and weight to his opinions, for, it is argued, the man who has worked, provided for his family, given his children an education and saved money, must have character.

The number of workers who spend as they earn and all they earn is almost as they earn and all they earn is almost became Governor of the State of Illibeyond bellef. The cities are full of nels it is the discipline of self-control them. Loss of work, Illness, or some and frugality that brings results.

## FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC

In connection with the published ful driver because you shout or tout statement that motor car and vehicle your horn at a pedestrian crossing in accidents have resulted this year in front of you.

death to 450 pedestrians and injuries "Don't lose sucht of the fact that to 20,000 more, the New York police the pedestrian is also permitted to department traffic experts have pre- use the roadway. pared the following "don't" for pedes-trians and drivers, by the observance and that the streets are sometimes the

in the direction in which you are go-

street; you are likely to wake up in ditions, the hospital. "Don"

of which, they say, accidents may be reduced to a minimum:

"Don't let your familiarity with out for them and be prepared to stop traffic breed contempt for its dangers.

Very few out-of-town visitors are killed or injured on our streets; thay are cautious.

"Don't forget that the operator of a motor vehicle has the same responsibility as the engineer of a train, so far

are cautious.

"Don't forget that if you are carrying a large bundle or an open umbrella part of your view may be cut off. Keep your eyes and cars open.

"Don't vacillate on the approach of a vehicle. The driver will be better able to avoid striking you if you act normally.

"Don't forget that carelessness, thoughtlessness, undue haste and recklessness are the causes of most accidents.

"Don't forget that the proper place to cross the street is at the crosswalk, during the time that traffic is moving in the direction in which you are going.

"Don't forget that traffic is moving in the direction in which you are going.

Don't day-dream when crossing the slippery pavement as under ideal con-"Don't, if you are in a hurry, try to

"Don't jump on or off a moving car.
"Don't jump on or off a moving car.
"Don't try to anticipate what a drivings; go slow there and make up time or is going to do, whether he is go-"Don't leave a motor vehicle uning to stop or start. Give him suffi-cient space to pass you.

"Don't leave a motor vehicle un-guarded so that a child can throw in the first speed."—New York World.

Oriental Fatalism

We were standing round a small fire, wrote Arminius Vambery, the Hun-

Left to themselves, the would-be mur-

for what had happened. Fate

## Penny Postage

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,-In an issue of The Times-Dis- garian linguist and traveler, in his patch of November 3, you reproduced count of a caravan journey an article that appeared in the Novem- hara, when we were startled by two ber 4, 1915, number of "Leslie's Weekly." opposing the 1-cent letter postage. ly hurt. The whole caravan was

Evidently you did this without giv- alarmed, and we all ran to the rear, ing much thought to the existing con-ditions, and to the subsidy that is en-loved by all these joyed by all these magazines, at the whole caravan that our men pursued expense of the users of letter postage, the culprit and brought him back se Statistics show that the loss to the government in the distribution of "Leslie's Weekly" will run over \$300,-

600 per annum. Mr. Sleicher, editor of "Leslie's," is aware of the fact that the National 1- wounds, consoled one another, and Cent Letter Postage Association, which is conducting a campaign for 1-cent letter postage, is asking Congress to letter postage, is asking Congress to neither of them was to advance by gradual steps the present, sible for whi almost free, mailing rates of these magazines to somewhere near the cost of service rendered them.

of service rendered, them.

Do you think it right that magazines should be subsidized more than \$75,000,000 per annum at the expense of users of letter postage?

The article speaks of the well-paid promoters of this movement. This is

promoters of this movement. This is not true and does not represent the not true and does not represent the facts of the case. The movement is backed by small and large users of letter postage scattered over the country who are shown as shown as the property of the country who are shown as ry, who are simply asking for justry, who are simply asking for justice. The officers and members of the advisory board conducting the movement are doing so at a personal sacri-Men call me that, and they call me this,

The movement is supported by many

Yet the different names are the same, I The movement is supported by many wish leading newspapers and magazines Gift-Bearer to all the world am I

My truest and holiest name, is Love."
—Sunday School Times.

scattered over the entire country, who are opposed to subsidies of all kinds.

ALVIN M. SMITH.

Richmond, Va., December 18, 1915.

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